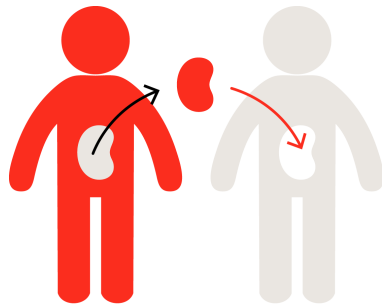


Organ Donation

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Abstract

Organ donations provide human organs for transplantation. It is possible to donate organs by living donations, like livers and kidneys. For instance, organs, like the heart or the lung, a donation is only feasible after the death – the cerebral death. In any case, a prior consent from the donor him- or herself or rather a family member is necessary. By the age of 16, potential donors are able to decide by themselves about organ donation. Regarding the age, there are no limits to the top, as long as the organs are in an appropriate condition.

Apart from some living organ donation exceptions, it is only possible to donate organs after the cerebral death. That means that the whole function of the cerebrum and the cerebellum is irrevocably gone. The cardiovascular system is maintained synthetically to keep the organs alive. There is no need of a medical check-up during lifetime as well as there are no restrictions or limitations. The way to say ‘YES’ to organ donation is very easy, but differs depending on the country. There are countries in which it is obligatory to answer the question on being a potential donor or not. In other countries it is voluntary.

Statistics from the Council of Europe show that waiting lists for organ transplantation patients not only in Europe, but in all over the world, are very long. In 2015 over 47 000 patients have been registered on waiting lists for an organ transplantation in Europe – these are five new patients added each single hour. Around 18 patients a day wait in vain for a donation and die. It is not always self-evident to think about organ donation, as this topic also means dealing with death. However, organ donation doesn’t hurt and the mentioned numbers show that it is necessary to deal with it. Just a simple ‘YES’ could save human lives!